



MAKABAYAN

[Manggagawa para sa Kalayaan ng Bayan - Workers for People's Liberation]

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Press Statement

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MAKABAYAN on Migrant Workers Day: Decent Work for All, Not Just Festivities

Mandaluyong, Philippines – 'On Migrant Workers Day the government must not only host festivities for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW's) but also should pay tribute to their contribution by upholding and affording them full protection on their basic rights abroad and generating *decent jobs in the country* for those returning OFW's.

This is the statement of Rene Bornilla Secretary General of Manggagawa para sa Kalayaan ng Bayan (MAKABAYAN) in *reaction* to the government's announcement to celebrate *the migrant worker's day* today.

According to MAKABAYAN, the Filipino migrant workers suffering from unnecessary sacrifices must stop. They must not serve as shock absorbers of a failing Philippine economy brought about by a corrupt regime.

The government must develop clear programs towards achieving a self-reliant economy instead of further adherence to neo-liberal policies which led to chronic economic problems that cause 'massive unemployment'. This pushes 4,000 Filipinos everyday to work abroad under exploitative and oppressive working conditions to meet their families' daily end.

MAKABAYAN pointed out the role of migrant workers in keeping our economy afloat during the height of the global economic crises up to the present. Despite the grim reality that thousands of workers lost jobs abroad and local employment became extra difficult with massive layoffs and shutdown of companies, GMA opted for the massive deployment of cheap, docile and unprotected migrant workers as a 'stop-gap measure. Hence, further negating the OFW's basic worker's right abroad.

A glaring truth is that our economy has become largely dependent to the so called trickledown effect of first world economies like U.S. Indicators are the type of jobs that the government generates today; Business Process Outsourcing (BPO's), a large number of call centers and product assembly companies on electronic and fly by night investors.

MAKABAYAN urges GMA to salute the working Filipinos abroad by creating opportunities for permanent decent jobs at home and afford each Filipino his right to full access on social services thus, making working abroad a choice not a necessity. ###